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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 30 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the so-called "presidential elections" held in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34.

An identical letter has been sent to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 30 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the so-called "presidential elections" held in Abkhazia, Georgia

On 26 August 2011, the Russian occupation forces and their proxy regime in Sokhumi conducted another cynical act of pseudo-democratic policy, the so-called "presidential elections". Moscow also brought to Abkhazia several dozen so-called "international observers", in an attempt to legitimize the outcome of these "elections", and thus the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of people. It is unfortunate that many "observers" visited Abkhazia without prior knowledge of the situation on the ground or knowledge of being in violation of Georgian legislation.

There is no justification for such mockery of international law. No decision on the future of Abkhazia can be legitimate as long as approximately half a million displaced persons, three quarters of the original population of the region, are deprived of the right to participate in the decision-making.

Crimes committed by occupants and their puppet regime have fundamentally distorted the demographics of Abkhazia, Georgia, thus preventing internally displaced persons and refugees of Georgian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Greek, Azerbaijani, Estonian and other ethnic origin from returning to their homes. Moreover, the human rights of the remaining residents are violated on a daily basis by the occupation regime and no international observers are allowed into the occupied region to report on these abuses and on the ongoing illegal militarization. In the existing reality these "elections" clearly display a complete disregard of internationally accepted norms and principles and cannot be considered legitimate by any standard.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to all members of the international community to give an adequate assessment to another farce conducted in one of the occupied regions of Georgia, Abkhazia, and steadily continue the non-recognition policy with reference to both occupied regions.